

C. G. - ~~James~~ Wed., Dec. 20/35.

Family of ~~Epiphany~~ ~~of the~~ ~~trinity~~  
167 E. 174

Answer  
7/10/2

N.R.A.

First and foremost in the day's news is the event in Washington which so directly affects the system under which we live. The dramatics of the Supreme Court gold decision were more impressively ~~theoretical~~ <sup>theatrical</sup> more startling in immediate possibility. But the President's N.R.A. message has <sup>that sort of</sup> a quiet significance which endures ~~as~~ <sup>the</sup> over the stretch.

What's to happen to the N.R.A.? Everybody who can think a thought has been reflecting on that question, on and off. Is the N.R.A. to increase <sup>e and</sup> ~~ing~~ become more and more <sup>our</sup> ~~a~~ dominating system of economics? Or is it to grow pale and dim and pass out of the picture, a mere emergency measure? [The President's declaration today takes a middle position, and paints the National Recovery Act as a permanent institution, with just about the same power in importance as now, neither increasing to any absolute dominance, nor diminishing.]

47  
He calls upon Congress to renew the National Recovery Act and extend it for another two years. This would carry the Blue Eagle into nineteen thirty-seven, well beyond Mr. Roosevelt's present term of office. And the President visions it as projected and carried on into the indefinite future.

Speaking of the purposes and principles of the Act, the President declared: "To abandon them is unthinkable."

In the changes and new angles that he suggested to Congress today, the President leaves the Blue Eagle pretty much as it stands - or perches. Some of the changes are minus - yanking out a Blue feather or two. Others are plus - the Blue tail feathers a little longer.

and carried on into the indefinite future.

48

The feathers of the broad blue wings seem to be clipped a trifle in the President's call for Congress to clarify sections of the N.R.A. and make them more precise. This would seem to be a side glance at the Supreme Court, and the exceptions it has taken to Administration policies, as in the gold decision, but more pertinently in that previous decision concerning "hot oil". The high justices <sup>negatived the</sup> ~~made it~~ federal control angle in the Oil Code, on the ground that Congress had given the President powers too vague, too indefinite, too sweeping. So now Mr. Roosevelt wants Congress to go over the N.R.A. with a fine comb and clear <sup>up</sup> ~~out~~ points of vagueness, and make the presidential powers more specific, not so indefinitely broad. That will ~~ix~~ give the Supreme Court less to pounce upon. Basically it means - squaring the N.R.A. more accurately with the Constitution.

A more obvious trimming of a blue feather, comes in the President's declaration against the idea of jail sentences for N.R.A. violators. He says there is no need of dusting out a prison cell for people who don't live up to the codes. Regular

civil proceedings he thinks are enough, injunctions, mandamuses, and other legal ways with Latin names. Meaning - that code violations are to be handled through the regular courts and not by the more direct sort of action on the part of the Code Administrations. And that would seem to end the era of "cracking down."

As for the clauses in the presidential message which give the Blue Eagle a bit of a boost - the principal one concerns coal, natural gas and oil. Mr. Roosevelt recommends that the government under the N.R.A. shall assume supervision over these industries, to stabilize them and eliminate ruinous price-cutting. This of course would tend to put the coal, natural gas and oil industries into the same government regulated class as public utilities. The question is, whether they can legally be considered as public utilities.

And the Blue Eagle, screams with pride as the President caresses and smooths down its feathers with praise - telling Congress ~~ka~~ of the good the N.R.A. has done, and the recovery results accomplished under its regime.

Mr. Roosevelt calls for a continuation of the N.R.A.

policies of collective bargaining for labor, the abolition of child labor, the enforcement of the anti-trust acts and the protection of small industries - the little fellow. And Congress is getting busy pronto to shape a new N.R.A. in place of the old.

COOLIDGE

150  
Three names were associated in my mind today, in connection with President Roosevelt's newest appointment to the Consumers Advisory Board of the N.R.A. The first is the name of Mrs. Emily Newell Blair, who has become Chairman of that ~~new~~ New Deal Consumers Board. The second is Calvin Coolidge, and the third is the composer Mozart. An odd selection, which comes about through the bizarre association of ideas, suggested by the news.

Mrs. Emily Newell Blair was Assistant to the former head of the Consumers Board - <sup>-- assistant to</sup> Mrs. Mary Harriman Rumsey, who was fatally

<sup>She now succeeds Mrs. Rumsey.</sup> injured by a fall from a horse. Mrs. Blair has been active for a

long time in political affairs pertaining to women. She was a suffrag<sup>et</sup> leader, a member of the Council of National Defense during the World War, <sup>She had</sup> ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ all sorts of jobs, from time to time, including an associate editorship on Good Housekeeping Magazine.

That's what suggests the name of Calvin Coolidge, because Good Housekeeping, in its <sup>forthcoming</sup> ~~latest~~ issue, prints a collection of anecdotes about the New England sage in the White House, <sup>--</sup> an article by Mrs. Coolidge herself. In one of these, the former

First Lady tells how she and Cal were just setting up housekeeping, and Cal arrived at their new home.

He was carrying an odd little russet colored bag, Mrs. Coolidge writes. When she opened the bag she found it cramped with men's ~~white~~ socks, all in need of mending. "I counted them",

says Mrs. Coolidge - "fifty-two pairs." *52 pairs of Cal's hole-y socks. What a man!*

"When I inquired", <sup>*Mrs. Coolidge*</sup> ~~she~~ continues, <sup>*"inquired if*</sup> ~~he~~ he had married me to get his stockings darned, he replied quite seriously:

"No, but I find it mighty handy."

And I call that domestic statesmanship on the part of the New Englander, who became a <sup>*great*</sup> national statesman.

The anecdote reminds me of something I read about the composer Mozart, who wrote such angelic music. Mozart, having decided to get married, sent a letter to his father, asking for permission. And he gave a list of half a dozen reasons, the next to the last of which was that he needed somebody to look after his clothes. And last - he was in love!

GOLD

The talk of government action about the gold decision seems to be premature. There have been all sorts of reports that the Administration is planning legislation to plug up any hole the decision may have opened in the present gold policy. Of course this refers to the paradoxical angle of the Supreme Court ruling - that it was illegal for Uncle Sam to refuse to redeem <sup>his</sup> ~~the~~ bonds in the equivalent of gold, but <sup>that</sup> nothing ~~can~~ be done about it. That's a sort of logical and legal dilemma which might lead to complications.

President Roosevelt declared today that he had not come to any decision about asking Congress for legislation along these gold lines. He emphasized that point, and explained that he had no intention of making up his mind about it for at least a week. Because it will take at least that long for the legal experts of the government to analyze, digest and figure out all the angles of the complex verdict, <sup>that - -</sup> "You were wrong Uncle Sam, but they can't do anything to you."



## INDIANA

23  
The idea of secession is a familiar one in American history. From the earliest days of the federal union right on down the line, states talked about seceding, until it all culminated in the Great War of Secession. And the theme of secession is in the news today.

Does this signify - a state or a group of states, planning to break away from the Union; perhaps by force of arms? No, there won't be another Civil War. It's all quite peaceful. The official word is - "Go on and secede if you want to, go your way in peace."

And this nineteen thirty-five ordinance of secession does not concern a revolting state, but a revolting county - Lake County, Indiana. If the legislative program goes through, Lake County will break away from the grand old commonwealth of Indiana, where the Wabash flows. Lake County will become the forty-ninth state of the Union and will supersede Rhode Island as the smallest state.

Behind this story of <sup>possible</sup> secession we find, ~~not~~ neither slavery nor states' rights - but horse-racing. Lake County is the rich manufacturing area southeast of Chicago, containing mighty ~~rx~~ industrial centers such as Gary, and Hammond. Lake County

decided it wanted a racetrack or two. And its representatives backed a bill in the State Legislature to legalize pari-mutual betting, so the boys could lay a wager or two on the galloping

*Lillies*  
~~horse flesh~~

The Legislature turned the bill down and that made the Lake County representatives mad. <sup>π</sup> Today I telephoned Representative James V. Kent, Jr., of Lake County, who is the author of the defeated horse-racing bill, and he gave me an inside account of the curious complications that have followed.

The disgruntled Lake County legislators expressed their resentment by introducing a bill to separate the county from Indiana and make it a separate sovereign state all by itself. The bill was intended to be a joke, a gesture of indignation. But what has happened? The joke seems to be on Lake County. Because the Indiana Legislature proceeded to take the bill quite seriously.

With a rousing vote of approval the secession measure was turned over to the <sup>Indiana</sup> House Military Affairs Committee. And now the Committee

<sup>obeyed</sup> has approved it, with the recommendation that Lake County be given full consent to secede at once <sup>^</sup> — and slide into Lake Michigan if it likes. And the Legislature is getting

<sup>The secession bill</sup> ready to pass it. <sup>is</sup> is being considered tonight, and Representative

Kent tells me that tomorrow it will undoubtedly be passed and sent to the State Senate.

It isn't certain how the Indiana Senators (or the Governor) will feel about this On-the-Banks-of-the-Wabash outburst of legislative humor. But if they follow through with the joke, the Lake County race-track secession will be placed before the assembled wisdom of Congress in Washington. Because Congress has something to say about the creation of a new state, whether for reasons of horse-racing or otherwise.

President Theodore Roosevelt was an explorer. His son, Colonel Theodore Roosevelt <sup>is</sup> ~~has been~~ an explorer. And now Colonel T.R. Jr., has a son ~~who is~~ headed in the same direction. This lad, Cornelius Roosevelt, has been investigating pre-Inca civilization at the sources of the Amazon. <sup>And</sup> ~~^~~ this makes three generations to contribute to one of America's most important publications: The Geographical Review, of the American Geographical Society, the organization of which Dr. Isaiah Bowman is the active head.

Here's a criminal yarn for you detective story fans-- the trail of the Chinese symbol. What sinister murder did it solve? What gigantic robbery of gems or gold or documents of state? Nothing so magnificent as all that. It was just a forty dollar robbery, a small crime, a minor manhunt-- but a little masterpiece, for all that.

Some days ago an apartment in the Bronx was robbed, some forty dollars in trinkets and jewelry swiped. (Such things do happen, even in the Bronx, which Jafsey eulogised so eloquently.) The local detectives investigated with their work-a-day routine. In the apartment they found one single clue -- a wallet, dropped by the robber. In the wallet was nothing save a small slip of yellow paper, one side torn, and some Chinese writing on it. Just an ordinary Chinese laundry ticket.

The detectives said:- "He's as good as locked up right now." And they had a peculiar reason for their confidence.

I have the story from Police Headquarters, from Inspector Joseph Donovan, head of the Identification Bureau, who told me how years ago his department got busy with something that

wasn't intended to have anything much to do with crime detection. It was a mere measure of identification to be applied to the finding of bodies -- particularly in the river. It was based on the fact that water does not obliterate those marks which a laundry puts on articles of clothing it handles. Naturally those laundry marks are not supposed to wash out. They are always available as a clew for identifying a body in the river. So those years ago the police bureau in charge of such matters called upon all laundries in the city to send in their own peculiar symbols, which they mark on clothes. And these symbols, thousands of them are filed in the bureau of identification. Of the twelve thousand laundries in New York, four thousand are Chinese. There's one whole file of Chinese laundry symbols, registered every slant-eyed washy-washy man in Bagdad-on-the-Hudson, or shall we say Shanghai-on-the-Spuyten-Dyvil?

So you can see why the detectives were so confident. They figured they could pick the Chinaman whose symbol was on that laundry ticket they found, and get from him some sort of clew to the robbery. It turned out better than that.

When they found the almond-eyed Celestial he nodded vigorously at the ticket. "Melican man lose tickey, want washy," he babbled. Yes, the man who had lost the ticket had come demanding his laundry. But John Chinaman was a careful laundryman. He wasn't giving out clothes without precaution. He made the man prove who he was and where he lived and write the name and address in a book. That careful Celestial did a competent piece of police work.

The detectives went to the address and found the customer who had lost the laundry ticket. They handed him the ticket and told him where they had found it. He confessed -- they say, everything, more than they expected.

So the police report that they have ~~XXXXXX~~ nabbed a youth who, with three other men, committed forty recent robberies.

AIRPLANE

There is nothing like going back to nature, as when the old time motorist used to get a horse to pull him out of the mud. Here's a case of aviation taking refuge on a freight train, a broken winged airplane riding on the top of a cattle car.

8 1/2  
It happened at Sonora, Texas, where Jasper Jones, a mighty aviator took off in his plane with two passengers aboard. He got off the ground but couldn't get much higher. The plane went staggering over the railroad tracks, where a freight train was rumbling along. Pilot Jasper Jones, unable to get his coughing, snorting flying bus to stumble along any further, made a highly original landing. He set her down on top of a cattle car. And the freight train kept going with the plane perched on top, something like a monkey riding an elephant.

59  
~~And xxx~~ The sky craft that couldn't get into the sky was a bit damaged, but <sup>neither its</sup> ~~neither xxx~~ pilot nor its passengers were injured. ~~Yes, it was~~ an original end for a flight, which <sup>now</sup> brings ~~this broadcast to~~ <sup>me to me</sup> quite an unoriginal end -- with SO LONG UNTIL TOMORROW.